

**ONSITE WASTEWATER STAKEHOLDER MEETING**  
**CAPITAL MALL, JEFFERSON CITY, MO**  
**December 7, 2012, Notes**

**I. Opening at 9:05 a.m.**

Jack Stiefvater, DHSS, Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism (CERT), facilitator for the meeting, introduced himself; Jim Gaughan, P.E., with the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Bureau of Environmental Health Services (BEHS), Onsite Wastewater Treatment Program (OWTP) Manager, and Charles Harwood, soil scientist with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Water Protection Program, Jack welcomed all to the stakeholder's meeting, thanked everyone for attending, and asked those present to introduce themselves.

There were sixty-three (63) stakeholders present in the Community Room of the Jefferson City Capital Mall. Lora Cable, HPR II, and Beverly Jansen, HPR II, with the OWTP, were present to sign in stakeholders and offer name badges and agendas. Kathy Sale, SOSA, BEHS, was present to take notes.

**II. Presentation**

Jim started by reviewing House Bill 89 (2011) and explained two parts related to onsite wastewater. The bill called for onsite wastewater stakeholders meetings and that process led to today's meeting, the first annual stakeholder's meeting. He also reported that it is the responsibility of DHSS to provide technical assistance to local onsite wastewater treatment systems permitting authorities. The OWTP has always provided assistance when requested and is currently working on a process for more proactive assistance.

Jim reviewed the initial stakeholder process and provided a link to the Report to the General Assembly. The report included 11 recommendations. Legislative action would be needed on professional registration for soil scientists, a requirement for real estate disclosure of onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), and to enhance DHSS' ability to accept complaints regarding OWTS; no action has been taken. Also, no action has been taken to require registration/license for OWTS service providers or septage haulers. Jim explained that voluntary registration could be considered. A link was offered for three Public Service Announcements (PSA's) that are available from the National Environmental Services Center. There is also a new EPA website with OWTS information for homeowners. A new onsite system loan program is funded by DNR and offered statewide through the Missouri Association of Councils of Government (MACOG). Loans are for people who need help with the cost of repairs or replacement of their onsite systems. Brochures were available and an Internet link was provided.

The OWTP is working with an advisory group to draft updates to the operation and maintenance standards, the soil evaluation standards, and the minimum construction standards. Any interested stakeholder is welcome to serve on the rules workgroups; contact the program. Charles Harwood provided the DNR Rule update; they are currently working on 10 CSR 20-6.030 Disposal of Wastewater in Residential Housing Developments. The rule currently applies to subdivisions with seven (7) lots or more and would change to lower the threshold to three (3) lots per subdivision.

Jim discussed design flows. DHSS and DNR currently determine jurisdiction using Table 2A from the DHSS rule. Permitting then follows the processes of the agency with jurisdiction. Through the current DHSS rule update process, we are reviewing design flows and considering possible options for cluster systems.

Charles talked about no discharge lagoons. Currently one house with a lagoon is the Local Public Health Agency's (LPHA) or DHSS responsibility. All other lagoons are DNR's responsibility. Changes are planned for lagoon systems with flows up to 3,000 gallons per day and serving anything other than a single-family house. They would need a general operating permit and a land application permit. It is not known when changes will be effective.

DNR and DHSS have worked on a framework for a Wastewater Web Portal. It will be a one-stop place for anyone involved with small wastewater treatment systems – homeowners, contractors, LPHA's, and

small communities, etc. There will be links to Onsite wastewater professionals and links to funding resources and much more.

Jim asked for discussion about Onsite Professionals' Training Needs. DHSS offers registration training for installers. The OWTP lists continuing education units (CEU) for training online showing the select credit available for each onsite professional. Select units can help professionals find training related to their role in the onsite industry and earn credit for renewal. Missouri Smallflows Organization (MSO) provides much of the CEU training. Some county authorities also provide CEU training.

Chuck explained about a DNR General Permit for land application. It would cover large capacity dispersal and distribution systems. The permit would only be for domestic wastewater systems with flows up to 50,000 gallons a day and would have a \$150 permit fee. It would be good for five (5) years, which could allow for expansion. Example: A new subdivision with six homes on it could apply for this permit if they know that they are going to have more homes in the future. This permit would cover growth of the subdivision for five (5) years without having to apply for a new permit with each build as long as flows stay under the 50,000 gallons per day requirement.

### **III. Comments/Discussion**

A need for electrical wiring training was mentioned; an MSO representative noted that they have a wiring course. There was discussion about OWTS professionals retaking the registration course instead of meeting CEU requirements for renewal. There was a suggestion for more online training and for design training. It was mentioned that there should be homeowner training about maintaining their systems. It was noted that training centers have had general training events. Randy Miles is working on a flow equalization course.

There was a question about the Attorney General's symposium at the Lake of the Ozarks regarding the recommendation for required time-of-sale inspections. So far only two or three counties require inspections, including St. Charles and Stone Counties. There has been no change proposed to state statutes. The OWTP has not tracked the effectiveness of required inspections. Lincoln County noted inspections are usually done even though it is voluntary. That is the case in many counties at the request of lenders or buyers.

How would the service provider registration work? If it is a volunteer system, would there still be training and CEU requirements involved also? Requirements would likely be similar except that it would be voluntary. It was noted that installer registration was voluntary for about eight years.

There was discussion of DHSS's rule update regarding design flows. It was noted that DNR design flows allow for infiltration in collection systems. It was also noted that if design flows were reduced, more failures might result. Often, if a system fails there is not an option for replacement on small lots. A question was asked about whether rule changes might address the waste strength and it was noted that there is an increase of fats, oils & grease (FOG) to control in residential systems with personal care products. New rural population who used to be on public wastewater system still think they can put whatever they want in a septic system. There was a question about larger tubs vs. standard tubs. Changing culture shows there are extra fixtures in homes that didn't used to be common; i.e. extra shower heads, garbage disposals, etc. Grease trap standards will be updated for commercial establishments. It is becoming more common for designers to use water meters on restaurants and other commercial systems than before.

Better enforcement was discussed. A suggestion was made to require installation photos if construction would not be inspected. Gray water reuse systems were discussed, as were remediation solution options for failed systems. There was a question about interceptor or curtain drains the new rule. Standards are planned, but nothing has been written yet.

### **IV. Future Meetings**

Future meetings will be held in a format similar to this year's.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.